

**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
***PO Box 45811, Olympia WA 98504-5811***

March 26, 2004

TO: All Potential Bidders

FROM: Sheila R. Anderson, RFP #0434-145 Coordinator  
DSHS Central Contract Services

SUBJECT: Amendment No. 1 -- DSHS Answers to Bidders' Questions  
Request for Proposal #0434-145 for  
Alternative Response System (ARS) (CA)

DSHS answers to Bidders' questions submitted as of March 23, 2004, are attached to this Amendment as Attachment A, and are incorporated herein by this reference to Request for Proposal (RFP) #0434-145, dated March 16, 2004.

Attachment A may only explain or clarify some aspect that is already addressed in the RFP. But some of the answers may also supplement or change what was previously stated in the RFP or in an exhibit.

Therefore it is important that bidders review all questions and answers, and not just those which they may have submitted. Questions have been stated on the Attachment exactly as were received.

**Answers to Bidders' Questions  
RFP #0434-145**

**Question #1:**

The RFP makes the following statement about joint applications:

" If you submitted a joint proposal with one or more bidders, and your proposal is designated as the apparently successful proposal, DSHS may designate you or one of the other bidders as the prime bidder and as the apparently successful bidder. The prime bidder will be DSHS sole point of contact, sign the contract and any amendments and will bear sole responsibility for performance under the contract"

My question is :

**If a joint proposal is submitted, can the participating bidders in the joint proposal designate prime and subcontractor agencies, or is that designation at the sole discretion of DSHS?**

*Answer: DSHS will issue Amendment #2 to the RFP #0434-145 document, which shall revise this text to allow bidders to designate the prime bidder in their proposal's Letter of Submittal. Please see Amendment #2 for further information.*

**Question #2:**

The RFP also requires that the application be "blinded". stating "Blind evaluations will be conducted for this proposal. This means that you must only reference your bidder number in these 5 copies. Your business name and the name of your employees must not be mentioned. Replace all names with your bidder number.

My question regarding this pertains to the fact that if successful, we would staff our portion of the work with Public Health Nurses.

My question is:

- **As a "specialty" agency, and the only such agency in King County, our job descriptions and qualifications identify that "specialty" by necessity. How should resumes etc be "blinded" to convey actual qualifications desired without as a result disclosing the agency identity. We would propose blinding the name but credentials and current positions would remain which may potentially offer a clue to agency identity.**

*Answer: DSHS will issue Amendment #2 to the RFP #0434-145 document, which shall remove the "Blind" evaluation process. Please see Amendment #2 for further information.*